

**New Hampshire’s Independent Energy Study Synthesis
Chapter 14 – Conclusion
November 16, 2012**

Summary of Chapter Intent

Chapter 14 of the Independent Energy Study is VEIC’s assessment of the current energy policy context in New Hampshire outlined a recommended seven step big picture strategy for New Hampshire:

VEIC’s Seven Step Energy Policy Action Recommendations for New Hampshire

Step 1 – Refocus and Clarify the State’s Energy Policy Direction
Step 2 – Develop Clearer Regulatory Guidance
Step 3 – Improve the Regulatory Process and Modify Performance Incentives
Step 4 – Increase Program Coordination and Further Streamline Administration
Step 5 – Use Public Policy, Funding, and Scaled Program Structures to Attract and Leverage Private Investment
Step 6 – Create a Home for Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Implementation Support and Oversight in State Government
Step 7 – Encourage State and Local Governments to Lead by Example

These seven steps represent, in VEIC’s eyes, the most important overarching policy-level recommendations for consideration by the Legislature, the Executive Branch, the Public Utilities Commission, and other state entities. These steps focus on areas of opportunity that VEIC felt would make the most significant and lasting difference to the citizens of New Hampshire and to the state’s energy future -- the foundational “must dos” that are critical if New Hampshire is to be successful in truly developing and maintaining energy efficiency and sustainable energy markets. These steps in turn draw upon, and inform, the numerous specific conclusions and recommendations presented in each of the more focused chapters of VEIC’s Independent Energy Report. Many of the remaining conclusions and recommendations discussed in chapters 3 through 13 are largely directed at those charged with administering and implementing the array of programs and initiatives resulting from state energy policies.

Findings

The EESE Board, in the course of its year long review, recognized the value of the seven-step strategy, as it provides a comprehensive approach to expanding energy efficiency and sustainable energy in the state. Without negating any of these seven step recommendations, the majority of which are discussed elsewhere in the EESE Board’s report and/or included in the individual chapter syntheses submitted herewith, the EESE Board’s final recommendations concerning the Independent Energy Study focused specifically on three key overarching policy recommendations:

1. Develop of an *overarching, stable energy policy*;
2. Develop and implement an *energy efficiency resource standard (EERS)*; and
3. Maintain and strengthen the *renewable portfolio standard (RPS)*.

In the view of both VEIC and the EESE Board, implementing such policies would provide a stable and comprehensive foundation for the state’s regulatory and programmatic efforts.

However, the EESE Board also discussed at some length that change in New Hampshire often occurs from the bottom up. Consequently, there was concern about VEIC’s apparent suggestion that successful implementation of the Study’s many other recommendations would be dependent on adoption of these overarching energy policies. While the EESE Board felt that implementation of the above-referenced policy recommendations would certainly enhance the successful accomplishment and impact of the other recommendations, the Board also felt it important to assert that adoption of these state policies is not necessarily a prerequisite for any progress to occur relative to many of the remaining Study recommendations.

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